

July 25, 2006.

Standardization Section  
Fresh Products Branch  
Fruit and Vegetable Programs  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0240

Re: Docket No. FV-06-309, Federal Register / Vol. 71, No. 102 / Friday, May 26, 2006, Page 30367 ***United States Standards for Grades of Tomatoes on the Vine***

The Fresh Produce Alliance (FPA) is an alliance of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA), the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Fruit & Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) whose goal is to build an improved business environment for the fresh produce industry.

One of the projects that it is currently working on is to review the Canadian grade standards contained in the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* of the *Canada Agricultural Products Act* and develop an amended list of grades for fresh produce. This includes, the possible revocation of Canadian grades or the amendment of the grades to standardize them with U.S. grades, including the standardization of good arrival guidelines, inspection protocols and reporting procedures. The FPA believes that standardization of grade standards, especially between the United States and Canada, will help to facilitate trade and aid in dispute resolution.

The FPA has consulted with the Canadian tomato industry on the new standards for grades of tomatoes on the vine and have no comments on the proposed standards. We are also pleased to report that the Canadian industry will use these new grades for trade purposes, thereby creating a consistent set of voluntary standards to be used by industry in both the United States and Canada for tomatoes on the vine.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for comment. For further information, please contact Ian MacKenzie at the Fresh Produce Alliance by telephone at 416-255-9200, ext. 223 or via e-mail at [ian@freshproducealliance.com](mailto:ian@freshproducealliance.com).



Ian MacKenzie  
General Manager

c.c. Dan Dempster, CPMA  
Anne Fowlie, CHC  
Stephen Whitney, DRC  
Rene Cardinal, CFIA  
Helen Zohar-Picciano, CFIA  
Kristen Callow, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers  
Tom Demma, B.C. Vegetable Marketing Commission  
Claude Laniel, Conseil Québécois de l'Horticulture  
Marie Gosselin, Les Serres du St-Laurent Inc.  
Blaine Andres, Red Hat Co-operative  
Art Smith, OFVGA  
Paul Procyk, Procyk Farms  
Larry Verbeke, Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario  
Jay Colasanti, Red Zoo Marketing